

DEATH OF GRENFELL TWINS IN WAR RECALLS OTHER CASES

Popular Superstition Revived by Several Similar Instances in the Great European Struggle

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

POPULAR superstitions on the subject of twins, and especially the old time belief that if one of the twin dies the days of the survivor are virtually numbered, are recalled by the recent death in action in France of Capt. Francis Grenfell of the Ninth Lancers, who was the first officer of the British army to receive the Victoria Cross in the present war. His twin brother, Capt. Rivendale Grenfell, of the same regiment, was killed in the fighting in France just before Christmas, and from that time forth Francis, who had been twice invalided home for wounds, and who insisted on returning to the front for the third time, before he had fully recovered, seems to have felt that he would not outlive the war.

In a letter written to Alfred W. Pollard, the well known librarian of the British Museum, sympathizing with him on the loss of his Gunner son, he winds up in the following fashion:

"I have lost my twin brother, from whom I was never separated until the day I last saw your son. So I can appreciate the great sorrow that has fallen on you and Mrs. Pollard in the loss of a son who has done what we all would like to do—die for England."

Both of the Grenfell twins were well known in the United States and were frequent visitors over here, especially "Riv," who will be recalled as a member of the Ranelagh team, which won the open polo championship at Narragansett Pier in 1910. Francis was an equally good polo player, and the two brothers, who were intimately associated in sport and in business affairs as well as in all their interests, in their likes and dislikes, were without exception the most popular officers of the Ninth Lancers, which is one of the crack corps of English cavalry. No one in the regiment ever thought of them singly, but always as of the pair. To such an extent was this the case that when Riv fell in the battle of Mons it did not seem quite natural to his comrades that Francis, who had been shot through both legs and lost a portion of his hand in the heroic charge of the Ninth Lancers at Compiègne, and who immediately after his return to the front had been once more sent home, with an ugly wound in the shoulder, should remain behind. In fact, Francis felt something of the kind himself, and was so convinced that he was destined to rejoin his brother at an early date, in the Great Hereafter, that on the day before he left he attended divine service and received communion, as a sort of valedictory.

The case of Francis and Riv Grenfell is only one of many in the present war. In all of the belligerent armies there have been instances of the same kind, that is to say, if one of the twins fell, the other one seemed certain to follow not long afterward. Sometimes, even, they were killed on the same day; and the Vienna newspapers record the deaths of an Austrian officer fighting in Galicia against the Russians, and of his twin brother fighting in Alsace against the French on the very same date.

having visited the Fates to learn how long her sons are likely to live, sees to her sorrow the threads of their lives—

So thin as spiders' frame,
And like an hour, that seemed their time,
She prays the Fates for greater length of days for the three; but finding this unavailing, she at last makes the request:

Grant this, that when ye shred with fatal knife
His line, which is the eldest of the three,
Which is of them the shortest, as I see,
Ere his life pass into the next.

are boy and girl the latter will never become a mother.

Still another popular belief is that the intelligence of twins is below rather than above the average. This is one with which I find it difficult to agree. For while it is true that the instances in which one or both of twins have achieved great eminence or have made a name for themselves in history are rare yet the Grenfell brothers were certainly both of them clever and gifted far above the average, while two of the most famous of English Judges, namely, Lord High Chancellor Eldon and his brother, Lord Stowell, were twins, that is to say, not twins of one another, but each had a twin sister.

of questions would be likely to arise in the event of the first born children of a reigning sovereign being twins.

Thus, while in all monarchical States of Europe, save Turkey, the right of succession to the crown is vested in the first born son, in Spain and in other Catholic countries it would be extremely doubtful, in the event of the eldest sons of the ruler being twins, as to which of them would be the lawful heir. Thus the ancient laws of Spain, based on ecclesiastical councils of the Roman Catholic Church that took place in remote times, held that in the case of twins, it was not the first, but the second of the twins to make its appearance in the world, that must be regarded as

rarities of twins in the reigning houses of the Old World.

Indeed, one may search so vainly the annals of the various dynasties of Europe for twins, even away back to remote ages, that one ends by recalling the popular legends, according to which, when twins were born to a royal house, one of the two was always put out of the way, in order to avoid any trouble about the succession. And it is this quite common belief, entertained at any rate formerly, that undoubtedly led to the story according to which the celebrated and mysterious prisoner of the Iron Mask was the twin brother of Louis XIV. of France.

Nor are twins so very frequent

few months interval of each other. Again there was Miss May Cuyler of New York, now the wife of Richard McCreary of New York, who has twin sons by her first husband, Sir Philip Grey Egerton.

There are a score of other cases of the same kind to be found in glancing over the names of those daughters of Uncle Sam who have gone to Europe for husbands, and at one moment it

Double and Triple Births Among Royalty and the Aristocracy Give Rise to Controversy

throne are concerned. Thus no question has ever been raised about the succession of the present Lord Dufferin, who is the son of the Duke of Devonshire. For by arriving in this world a minute or so prior to his twin brother, Fred, he secured to himself the inheritance of the earldom, of the minor peerages, as well as of the entailed estates, yielding an income of half a million. Lord Dufferin, however, where Fred has had to remain content with a beggarly allowance of \$20,000 a year.

Lord Dudley's youngest son, the Hon. Edward and George Ward, are twins, and his brother, the Hon. Cyril Ward, has two young twin daughters, now about 9 years old. Then there is the Marquis of Lintithgow, whose eldest son bears the title of Earl of Hopetoun, while his twin brother has to be content with the style of Lord John Hope.

Lord Lintithgow is the head of the extremely numerous and influential clan of Hope, and it may be recalled that on the occasion of the coronation of his father, who was Governor-General of Australia, the clergyman entrusted with the duty of preaching the sermon in connection with the religious portion of the festivities, well nigh convulsed the congregation by exclaiming, in the midst of an impassioned address: "The world is full of blasted hopes."

The Dowager Countess of Lytton, lady in waiting to Queen Alexandra, and in her day a famous beauty, is twin sister of the widowed Lady Loch. They bore prior to their marriage the names of Elizabeth and Edith Villiers and were nieces of the fourth Lord Clarendon. Enraged at the same time to be married, the one to the late Lord Loch and the other to that Earl of Lytton who is remembered in literature as "Owen Meredith," they presented such an extraordinary resemblance to each other that it was almost impossible for their respective fiancés to distinguish them apart, and the most amusing contempts were constantly taking place.

To the best of my knowledge there is but one instance of triplets among the aristocracy of Great Britain, namely, in that ancient Devonshire house of Acland, which Lord St. Audries represents in the upper chamber of Parliament, although its actual head is Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, twelfth Baronet of his line and a very popular and veteran member of the House of Commons.

Triplets are far more common among the masses, and throughout the sixty odd years of the reign of Queen Victoria she was wont always to reward mothers who had given birth to three or more children with a letter of commendation, and a gift of money in which the number of guineas equaled that of the number of children born at the same time. She did this not only by reason of her maternal instincts but also for the purpose of encouraging large families.

Triple and quadruple births became so numerous, however, that three years after his accession King Edward abolished this form of gratuity as a too heavy tax upon his resources, and accordingly enough the frequency of these multiple births immediately began to decline. There has, however, been such an appalling waste of human life during the present war that King George may find it of national advantage, on the restoration of peace, to revert as a matter of policy, to the old custom of rewarding mothers who have borne three or more children. In the case of King George, the late Queen Victoria.

DESIGNING WAR POSTERS IN OPEN AIR ART SCHOOL IN LONDON



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Many of the striking recruiting posters and war cartoons that plaster London are designed in a lovely garden "somewhere in London," where John Hassall, the well known artist, conducts his open air art school. It will be noted that his pupils are mostly of the fair sex, all of the male members of the class having gone to the front.

Thus, while in some portions of the world the conviction prevails that if one of a twin pair dies the other is likely to succumb not long afterward, there are also nations among which it is held that if one of the twins dies the survivor, however weakly before, will at once improve and gain in health and strength. The idea underlying this is that the vitality of the dead twin has been inherited and added to that of the survivor. There is an allusion to this in Spenser's "Faerie Queene," in Book IV. Apage, who was the mother of three bold brothers:

Borne of one mother in one happy mold,
Borne at one burden in one happy morn—

And similarly that when the second dies both his life and that of the eldest should pass into and be added to the life of the third. The boon was granted.

The survivor of twins is sometimes credited with curious powers. In certain folklores he takes his place with the seventh son and with the child born with a caul. All these are supposed to have either special powers of healing or to be gifted with mysterious power of second sight. In the English county of Essex the peasantry regard a "left" twin, that is to say, a surviving twin, as being able to cure certain maladies either by breathing on the patient or by touch, and in another county it is held that if twins

Very curious indeed is the rarity of twins among the reigning houses of Europe, the only case that I can recall at the present moment being in the family of Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, one of the sisters of the Kaiser. She has to her record two sets of twin sons, the elder ones being now at the front in France as cavalry officers. Then there are the twin daughters of the late Duke Eugene of Wurtemberg, namely, the Duchesses Elisa and Olga, married to two brothers, the Princes Albert and Maximilian of Schaumburg-Lippe.

It is fortunate that in each instance these twins are so remote from the succession to the throne of Hesse and of Schaumburg-Lippe. For all sorts

the elder, and as enjoying prior rights to the succession.

A few years ago the diagnosis of the medical attendance of the young Queen of Spain were to the effect that she was about to become the mother of twins, and it was on that occasion that a discussion as to which of the two should be regarded as the elder took place in court and official circles at Madrid, and several learned articles were written about the matter in the principal law journals of the Peninsula. The anticipations of the royal physicians proved to be without foundation. But the very fact that there should have been any controversy in connection with the affair served to call attention to the phenomenal

among the great houses of the European aristocracy. Their rarity was at any rate pronounced until the so-called international alliances became so numerous. For it cannot be denied that marriages between members of the Old World nobility and American heiresses have been singularly prolific in twins.

Thus Lady Paget, daughter of Mrs. Parson Stevens of New York, presented her husband, Gen. Sir Arthur Paget, with a brace of sons in 1888, much, it is said, to his resentment. Then there was Consuelo Duchess of Manchester, daughter of the late Anthony Yznaga of New York. She had twin daughters, who grew up into beautiful girls, but both succumbed to consumption at a

came to be regarded as quite in the natural order of things that American wives of Britishers should present the latter with two babies at a time, so that when Duchess Consuelo of Marlborough merely gave birth to a single child on the first occasion of her becoming a mother she was considered by the English public at large as having but half done her duty and as having inadequately fulfilled national expectations.

It is a matter for congratulation that in English law there should be no such problem with regard to the inheritance of twins as those which I have referred to above as existing in Spain and in other Catholic monarchies of Europe, where the rights to the

GERMANY'S INDUSTRIAL INVASION OF FRANCE BEFORE THE WAR

French writers declare that Germany's military invasion of France was preceded by a financial invasion, the plans for which were prepared in the same scientific manner as the plans for the advance of the German army. An account of this phase of the war is given in the accompanying article. The publications on which it is based chiefly are not yet available in English.

THE open war that Germany is now waging on France is but a culmination of a conflict, hidden and unacknowledged, it is true, but none the less a conflict, long carried on by the German Government against the peace and prosperity of the French nation.

As far back as August, 1891, Herr Schultze, director of the State Railroads of the Empire, applied to the Reichstag for, and obtained a grant of 80,000 thalers to be used as a fund for the subsidizing of foreign newspapers in the interest of the imperial policy, and about the same time the German secret police was organized into two distinct branches, one to deal with the usual espionage and the other to further "political action."

According to French writers, among the results of this latter institution may be mentioned the important and unexplained strike which broke out at Amiens in the shoe factories and which was largely supported by subscriptions received from German sources just at the time that the city of Hamburg was endeavoring to establish shoe factories with Government support; the great dock strike which tied up the port of London for months and which was prolonged by the receipt of generous donations from "brother" organizations in Germany; the general strike ordered in 1908 in France at the very moment that the Dreyfus inquiry took a turn involving Germany.

It is charged that in countless other instances the meddling but not particularly fine hand of the German organizer was discernible. In fact so confident had the German agents become by 1914, when the "three year law" for the increase of the French standing army was under discussion and seemed likely to lead to trouble with the electorate, that Solomon Grumbach, the Parisian correspondent of German Socialist papers, even went to the length of undertaking an enthusiastic campaign to prevent the passage of the law, speaking at many public meetings in Paris and winding up his speeches with the cry "Long live Germany!"

In this secret war on France, however, Germany's favorite method of procedure was one less dangerous and quite as efficacious, namely, by the

promotion of German business enterprises in point of strategic importance, whether military or economic; by the flooding of certain districts by financial agents and commercial travelers whose reports went to the military headquarters in Berlin, and by obtaining concessions which put into the power of German firms the mineral resources of France.

If Germany occupied Canada's present territory and the headquarters of Dun and Bradstreet were in its capital, thoughtful minds in the United States might foresee that in case of war a vast collection of exceedingly useful information would be at the disposal of the commanders of the invading army. France was in just this position. Her principal commercial agency, the Schimmelpfeng, which had its branches in every town and village and which before the war accumulated minute information on the economic progress of France, is owned and controlled by Hans and Richard Schimmelpfeng of Berlin.

Of course the French branch of the business had its own head office in Paris as well as its large branch offices in Bordeaux, Lyons, Marseilles and all other principal trading centres, but it is worthy of note that the director general for France was M. Boscchertz, a name which hardly suggests French origin. The manager of the Paris office was Karl Klee, another name which hardly suggests French descent. He was later succeeded by M. van der Donk, a Dutchman.

The information with which the Schimmelpfeng agency concerned itself in any specified locality included, first, facts about the place itself, its climate, means of communication, population, pecuniary resources and the personality of the parliamentary representatives, their personal resources and particulars concerning the members of their households; secondly, the entire industrial situation, including methods of manufacture, details of daily and annual output, sources of supply, manufacturing cost, market price and so forth.

Discharged employees of the agency assert that all information was made out in duplicate and one copy was sent straight to the Berlin office. So efficiently were these tables of informa-

tion made out and filed that by looking through a file of documents of about the size of a small dictionary the investigator can find complete commercial, financial, geographical and political details for a city of 20,000 inhabitants.

There is no doubt that this information has been at the service of German commercial houses during the Berlin office, so that when a German house intended to compete with a French one it has had at its fingers' ends every possible particular that it needed.

Next to having complete information on every aspect of the country's life from the German standpoint would be the importance of controlling some vital springs of public efficiency in time of war. One such would be the bread supply of the capital, and it is a fact that the largest flour mills in France, the Grands Moulins de Corbeil, at Corbeil on the Seine, which fed over a million of the population of Paris, were managed and controlled by a German, Lucien Baumann. It is true that recently, in response

to popular clamor raised by the revelation of this fact in a Parliamentary inquiry, M. Baumann took out papers of naturalization. Another disquieting aspect of the German ownership of these important mills before the war is the fact that, offered by Germans and employing an increasing number of German hands as they were, they held an extremely important strategic position on the Seine, commanding no less than five railways as well as the waterway.

Next to bread coal is perhaps the article whose supply uninterrupted and secure is most necessary for the safety and comfort of a modern community. For the last few years the French towns, and particularly the forts on the German frontier, have been supplied with this necessary by two German firms, one with headquarters at Saarbruck and the other with headquarters at Strasbourg. Among the important points which depended for their principal coal supply upon these German sources are Lunéville, Nancy, Pont-a-Mousson and Toul, and this in spite of the fact that up to

1912 the law provided that supplies to French Government posts must be from French sources.

Not only, indeed, were the frontier forts of the east supplied with German coal, but that coal was drawn by German locomotives driven and repaired by German engineers. This peculiar condition of dependence of the French military offensive on German supplies and German workmen has not been confined to combustibles. The aviation service seems to offer another example of German willingness to help out French military defects.

At La Motte Breuille most of the French dirigibles are constructed and make their trial flights. Close by the aerostation park is a large factory of chemical products, a German firm with a French name, which actually supplied hydrogen to the military authorities for the inflation of their airships. It is not too much to suppose that in addition to being able to cut off temporarily the source of supply of this vitally necessary gas the German employees of the firm kept

their eyes open and reported when necessary to Berlin.

Not only so, but this factory is situated in an important strategic position at the gateway of the forest of Compiègne and at the junction of the rivers Oise and Aisne. It developed during inquiries caused by press comment on the peculiarity of a German factory supplying the French military airships with gas that this factory was a subsidiary of the Chemische Fabrik Elektron, the company which at Bitterfeld supplies hydrogen to the German dirigibles.

It has been a matter of some remark also that French military aeroplanes have been fitted with portable wireless outfits of a German make, the Lepel, manufactured of course by a German company.

The numerous occasions on which French naval gunpowder has exploded without known cause rendered the French military authorities rather uneasy and led to many experiments with the hope of finding a stable and non-deteriorating powder. In 1912 an inventor came forward with a new

gunpowder of which he offered the secret formula as a gift to the authorities, with an absolute guarantee of its perfection in the required respects.

It was discovered that this formula called for a particular brand of bleached cotton produced only by a single company, at Montfermeil. On examination this supposedly French manufacturing company turned out to be owned by the Gebrüder Martin of Mulheim on the Rhine. Thus the adoption of the process so kindly offered would have had the effect of putting the supply of gunpowder for the French navy into the power of a German producer.

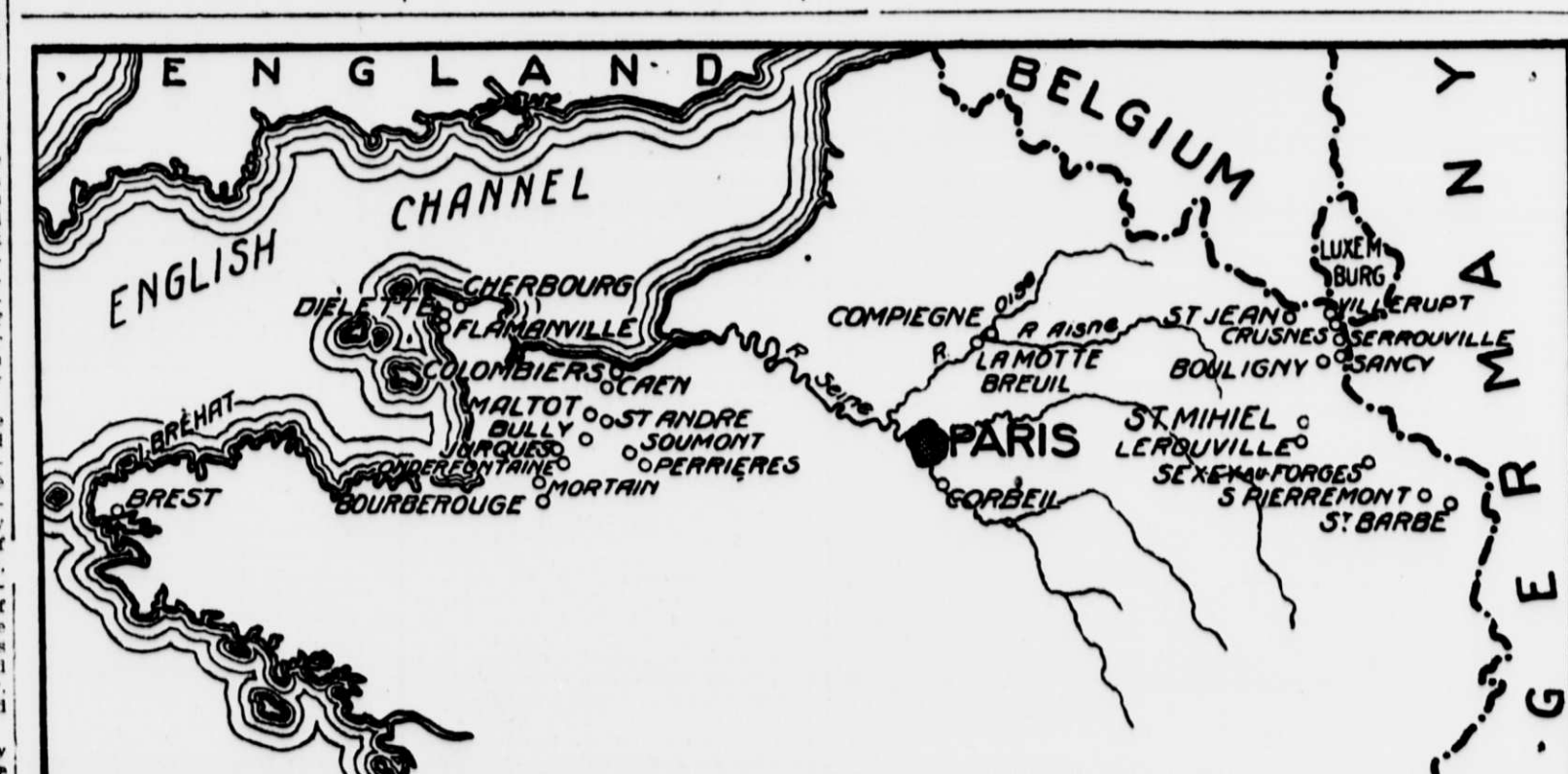
Even such an apparently unimportant supply as that of lubricating oil for the military automobiles has been a subject of careful attack and the contract for its supply was awarded by the War Office to a supposedly French company, the Stern-Sonneborn Company, a branch of a house of the same name with headquarters at Hamburg.

Since 1870 Germany has changed from an agricultural to an industrial nation. For successful industrialism appointed landing place for troops and guns in the rear of one of France's most important fortresses, and this landing place was at the outbreak of hostilities owned and controlled by German capital and peopled by German employees.

Dielette, however, does not constitute the whole of Herr Thyssen's former industrial overlordship of Normandy. On the outskirts of Caen at Colombelles, commanding the base of the French channel, torpedo flotilla, Herr Thyssen owns a company, erected blast furnaces and constructed a couple of tidal basins for the loading and discharge of iron carriers. But perhaps worthy of note that these works command not only the mouth of the Orne, but the adjacent iron fields; in fact the Normandy basin had practically passed before the war into the ownership of Germany.

In the first mine zone there were four mines, three belonging to the Gutehoffnungshütte and the fourth to a French firm which was under contract to deliver its entire output for nineteen years to Germany. A second zone contained five concessions belonging to the German firms. Two other zones each contained one concession belonging to a German and a Dutch firm. In the south, Normandy out of eighteen concessions sixteen belonged to German firms.

In one instance this exploitation of the French mineral wealth takes on an especially interesting aspect. On the coast of Normandy, just where it juts out furthest into the English



Map of northern France, showing cities in which German financial and industrial interests sought a foothold.